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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/735,849	12/16/2003	Michael E. Bulriss	017025-0306419	3165

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EXAMINER

RAMAKRISHNAIAH, MELUR

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2643

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/735,849	Applicant(s) BULRISS ET AL.	
	Examiner Melur Ramakrishnaiah	Art Unit 2643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12-16-2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-21, 22, 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Kannes (US PAT: 5,382, 972).

Regarding claims 1, 23, Kannes discloses a conference system, comprising: a communication link (30/40/51, figs. 1-2) coupling a first location and a second location, a first input-output device in (13, fig. 1) disposed at the first location, generating a signal from an attorney (3, fig. 1), a second input-output device (M5/14a, fig. 6 and 52, fig. 2), disposed at the second location (col. 5 lines 44-55), the attorney and client (5, fig. 2) having a relationship protected by the attorney client privilege (col. 5 lines 25-31), a third input-output device in (for example 12, fig. 1) disposed at the first location, generating a signal from a third party (col. 4, line 35 – col. 5, line 7), a signal processor in (68, figs. 2, 5) disposed in the communication link (30/40/51, fig. 2) between the first and second locations, the signal processor routing the signals between the input-output devices at a first and second locations (col. 5, line 8 – col. 7, line 27), a control panel (25, fig. 1) operatively coupled to the signal processor, providing control over the signals routed thereby (col. 4, line 66 – col. 5, line 7), wherein communication link (30/40/51, fig. 1) communicatively couples the first, second and third input-output devices to one another, such that each of the input-output devices is configured to receive and play signals from

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others of input-output devices (col. 5, line 56 – col. 6, line 54), wherein control panel (reads on interface) also controls the input-output devices so that a private communication may be established between the first and second input-output devices, at the exclusion of the third input-output device, such that signals generated by the first and second input-output devices are maintained in confidence and such that attorney and the attorney's client are permitted to engage in a private communication without vitiating the attorney-client privilege (col. 5 lines 25-35).

Regarding claims 2-21, Kannes further teaches the following: communication link (51, figs. 1-2) establishes a point-to-point conference between the first and second locations (col. 5 lines 25-31), signals comprises at least audio and video components, control interface device disposed in the communication link, wherein control interface device is communicatively coupled between first input-output device and signal processor in (68, fig. 2), and wherein the signal processor is communicatively coupled between the control interface device and second input output device, and wherein control panel is operatively coupled to the control interface device, first and second control interface devices disposed in the communication link between the first and second input-output devices, wherein the first input-output device is communicatively coupled between the first input-output device and the signal processor, wherein the signal processor is communicatively coupled between the second control interface and second input-output device, and wherein the control panel is operatively coupled to the second control interface (col. 4, line 66 – col. 5, line 43, col. 12 lines 16-26), control

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interface device disposed in the communication link, communicatively coupled between the signal processor in (60, fig. 2) and the second input-output device (for example 12, fig. 1), the second input-output device (M5/14a, fig. 6, col. 5 lines 44-55), wherein the first control interface device in (13, fig. 1) is communicatively coupled between the second input-output device and the signal processor, and wherein the signal processor in (68, fig. 2) is communicatively coupled between the second control interface and the second input-output device (fig. 2), wherein first input-output device (13, fig. 1) is disposed in the court and the second input-output device (figs. 2, 6) is disposed within jail (col. 3 lines 13-23), at least one display device (for example 12, fig. 1) disposed within the court room, capable of playing the signals generated by the input-output devices, communication link comprises at least one selected from a wired connection, wireless connection, etc (col. 4 lines 43-52), control panel (25, fig. 1) is configured to be controlled by a judge (1, fig. 1), attorney (2, fig. 1) is a defense attorney and attorney's client (5, fig. 2) is a jail inmate (col. 3 lines 12-23), first input-output device in (13, and 21-24, fig. 1) is configured to capture audio-visual information from the defense attorney and the second input-output device in (19, fig. 2) is configured to capture audio-visual information from the jail inmate during a trial proceeding, third input-output device in (12 and 21-24, fig. 1) is configured to capture audio-visual information from a prosecuting attorney (2, fig. 1) during a trial processing, a fourth input-output device in (11 and 21-24, fig. 1) is configured to capture audio-visual information from a judge (1, fig. 1) overseeing a trial proceeding, a display communicatively coupled to the signal processor in (68, fig. 2) to display information generated by the input-output devices (fig.

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4), plurality of input devices communicatively coupled to the communications link, wherein the plurality of input devices are configured to interject audio visual information for play on at least one display device during the trial proceeding (col. 5, line 56 – col. 6, line 48), plurality of input-output devices comprises at least one selected from a group comprising a computer (68, fig. 2), a video cassette recorder etc (col. 6 lines 55-65), control panel (25, fig. 1) comprises one selected from a group comprising a personal computer, a touchpade device, a keypad device etc (col. 12 lines 16-26), signal processor is a switching device (118, fig. 5, col. 10, line 67 – col. 11, line 9), the first input-output device comprises a first privacy handset (50, fig. 1) and the second input-output device comprises a second privacy handset (52, fig. 2), wherein the handsets permit the attorney and client to engage in private communication without vitiating the attorney client privilege (col. 5 lines 25-31).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kannes in view of Taub (GB 2278516).

Regarding claim 22, Kannes discloses an audio-video conferencing method between a courtroom and a jail, comprising: providing a first input-output device in (13,

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fig. 1) in the courtroom to capture information from an attorney during a trial and generate an attorney audio-visual signal, providing a second input-output device (M5/14a, fig. 6 and 52, fig. 2) in the jail and generate an inmate audio-visual signal, providing a third input-output device in (for example 14, fig. 1) in courtroom to capture information from another participant during a trial and generate a third party audio-visual signal (col. 4 lines 35-65), communicatively coupling the first, second, and third input-output device to one another (figs. 1-2), controlling the audio-visual signals communicated from the courtroom to the jail with a signal processor in (68, figs. 1, 5), and operatively coupling a control panel (25, fig. 1), controlled by a judge, to the signal processor (col. 4, line 66 – col. 5, line 7), wherein, when attorney wishes to conduct an attorney-client privileged communication with the inmate, wherein, after initiating the attorney client sidebar feature, the first and second input devices communicate with one another, to the exclusion of the third input-output device, permitting the attorney and client to engage in an attorney client communication without vitiating the attorney-client privilege (col. 5 lines 25-39).

Kannes differs from claim 22 in that although he teaches an interface for sending a private line signal to the system computer whenever the telephone link comprising telephones 50 and 52 is in use to maintain attorney-client privileged communication with the inmate (col. 5 lines 31-39), he does not teach the following: judge selects an attorney-client sidebar function via control panel.

However, Taub discloses video conference system which teaches the following: chairman sitting at the master console (40, fig. 2) to select signals to be transmitted

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from member consoles for transmission to the telephone line (44, fig. 2, page 5 lines 10-19).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify Kannes' system to provide for the following: judge selects an attorney-client sidebar function via control panel as this arrangement would facilitate control of signal transmissions by a central authority such as chairman of the conference as taught by Taub, thus providing central coordination of conference proceedings.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (571)272-8098. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 Hr schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curt Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Melur Ramakrishnaiah
Primary Examiner
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